



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

FY2007 CDBG One-Year Action Plan: Preliminary Proposed Changes

1. FY 2007 applications must be submitted using DHCD's online system. Applications are due:

CDF:	Due: Friday, January 12, 2007 Notice of Intent due: Friday, December 29, 2006
Mini-Entitlement:	Notice of Intent due: Friday, January 12, 2007
HDSP:	Round 1, Notice of Intent due September 28, 2006 Application due November 16, 2006 Round 2, Notice of Intent due February 22, 2007 Application due April 12, 2007

2. FY 2007 applications will require descriptions of past outcomes and anticipated measurable improvements using the performance measures defined in the Performance Outcome Measurement System distributed by HUD.
3. Community Development Strategy is evaluated to determine adequacy – those CD strategies that do not meet the following 4 criteria will not meet the threshold and any awarded funds will be subject to Special Conditions to address the inadequacy(ies):
 - a. The CD Strategy must describe the community's approach to a variety of projects and activities which include, but are not limited to, the subject of the CDBG application;
 - b. The CD strategy must identify the geographic target areas, if any, in which the community intends to focus its community development efforts;
 - c. The CD Strategy must conclude with a list of projects and activities in order of the priority in which the community intends to undertake to address its community development needs;
 - d. The community must submit evidence that the CD Strategy was discussed at a public forum, meeting or hearing and that the priority list was presented and specifically discussed.

Special Conditions might require the community to develop a priority list, if one is missing, or hold a public forum to publicize the overall strategy, if one was not held.

4. Per application, 50% of the funding for Public Social Services must support activities that build economic security and self-sufficiency. The following are Public Social Services that meet this definition:
 - ✓ Job Training
 - ✓ Literacy programs

- ✓ English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- ✓ ABE/GED classes
- ✓ Job-Related Childcare Assistance
- ✓ Job-Related Transportation Assistance
- ✓ Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
- ✓ Domestic Violence Prevention
- ✓ Elder Self-Sufficiency
- ✓ Financial Literacy

In describing a requested Public Social Services activity, applicants must demonstrate that the activities have been prioritized at the local level in order to determine the request for services. Such prioritizing must demonstrate an understanding of the needs assessment undertaken by the community's Community Action Agency and not be inconsistent with such Agency's assessment of service needs.

Applicants may apply for no more than five Public Social Services activities per program year. The minimum grant amount for Public Social Services is \$12,000 per activity.

5. Mini-Entitlements: For FY 2007, DHCD applied updated CWN scores and Census data regarding poverty to a revised Mini-Entitlement formula resulting in a new list of eligible Mini-Entitlement communities. Municipalities were selected to be Mini-Entitlement communities if they met the three following criteria: (1) Community Wide Needs Score over 28; (2) poverty rate higher than the state average of 6.7% and (3) population over 12,000. A budget of \$8,000,000 has been established for the FY 2007 Mini-Entitlement set-aside.

DHCD expects to award up to \$8,000,000 from the Mini-Entitlement Program allocation to 10 designated Mini-Entitlement municipalities, listed below. The maximum grant award is \$800,000.

Chelsea	Revere
Everett	Southbridge
Gardner	Wareham
Greenfield	Webster
North Adams	West Springfield

Mini-Entitlements will apply in two stages – submission of a Notice of Intent and subsequent completion of application packets for the requested activities. Activity packets will not be competitively scored but will require minimum submission materials and documentation subject to DHCD review and approval. Mini-Entitlement communities may not join with CDF I or CDF II communities as joint applicants.

6. A single community may receive up to \$1,000,000 for multiple, targeted, physical activities except that no such activity may be funded at less than \$200,000.
7. The additional five points available to an applicant that demonstrates that non CDBG-funded projects consistent with the community's Community Development Strategy and complementary to the requested CDBG activities are targeted to the same geographic area and will also result in measurable improvements, will not apply to maintenance activities/projects or activities that are an extension of a

requested activity such as lead abatement funds to serve the same units as those in a proposed housing rehabilitation program. Non CDBG-funded activities must have been conducted in the target area not longer than one year ago, simultaneous to the currently requested activities or are scheduled to be conducted not longer than a year from any 2007 CDBG award. Social services activities must have been initiated or expanded, consistent with MA CDBG requirements, within the same timeframe.

8. The timely expenditure requirements trigger date is July 2005.
9. DHCD reserves the right to solicit additional information from applicants in order to confirm or clarify factual or procedural responses to application requirements such as copies of legal advertisements, minutes, survey instruments, letters, etc. Acceptance of these materials is subject to DHCD's satisfaction that the omitted material was in existence at the time of application and submission of the requested documents within a specified timeframe. Additional information regarding responses to competitive questions will not be accepted.
10. DHCD intends to undertake an evaluation of the potential for a statewide network for the delivery of housing rehabilitation activities and potential design and operation of such a system for future CDBG-funded rehabilitation activities.